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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I. MEETS LEADERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

DHAKA, MARCH 5 -- Geeta Pasi, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, met today with leaders of various Bangladeshi human rights organizations to thank them for their work and to exchange views on the upcoming elections and status of human rights in the country. Representatives of eight different organizations were present for the meeting, which was held at the American Club in Dhaka.

During the meeting, Charge d'Affaires a.i. Pasi underscored the importance of non-governmental organizations in calling attention to human rights issues and advocating for change. She expressed the U.S. Embassy's support for the government's elections roadmap, which provides for free, fair and credible elections by the end of the year, and also reiterated the need for transparency and due process in the on-going anti-corruption campaign.

The annual State Department Human Rights Report will be released in Washington in the coming weeks. Once the report is released in Washington, the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka will post the report on its website and provide a translation into Bangla of the Report's Bangladesh section.

GR/2008